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URBAN DISTRICT OF OTLEY



HEALTH
REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1955

R. A. W. PROCTER,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

H. R. WHITAKER,
R.P. Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
Sanitary Inspector.

LIST OF COUNCILLORS FOR THE YEAR 1955

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR T. JOHNSON

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR S. ROBINSON

COUNCILLOR D. I. WILKINSON

COUNCILLOR H. STOKES

COUNCILLOR D. A. LAMBERT

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COUNCILLOR J. D. SIMPSON

COUNCILLOR E. AIREY

COUNCILLOR F. W. M. NEWBOULD

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health :

R. A. W. PROCTER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

H. R. WHITAKER, R.P., CERT. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

R. A. FISHER, CERT. S.I.B.

The appointment of Medical Officer of Health is a part-time one.

OTLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1955

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my ninth and last report on the health of the Otley district. With an increased birth rate and lower death rate and with measles the only serious epidemic the year 1955 might have been regarded as a very satisfactory year. But an increase of preventable infant deaths and an outbreak of food poisoning somewhat mar the picture. On looking back over the past nine years one cannot fail to be impressed by the increase in the prosperity and wellbeing of the general population of the town. Housing has greatly improved, shabby clothing is unusual, while the children are well-nourished and on the whole well-clothed. A visit to a shop selling pastries or meat on a Friday will find the Otley housewife buying the best undaunted by high prices. Otley is fortunate in having few really difficult public health problems. Owing to the foresight of councillors in the past, the water supply is excellent in quality and quantity and rarely causes any anxiety. Refuse disposal presents no difficulty but labour for this purpose is likely to be more difficult to obtain and some day, councils will have to consider whether more labour saving methods cannot be devised. A red light on the horizon is the increasing burden of work placed upon the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff and the shortage of sanitary inspectors which will become acute in the near future owing to the failure of the profession to attract sufficient new entrants. The obvious remedies are an increase of subordinate staff to work under the Sanitary Inspector and thereby enable him to use his professional knowledge and skill to better advantage and to encourage recruitment by the adoption of a more attractive title than that of "Sanitary Inspector," by greatly improved financial inducement and by a raising of the status of the profession.

The one serious public health problem of the town is the sewerage scheme for the northern part of the town beyond the Wharfe. This matter which is referred to in my report has been hanging fire since 1943 and has made slow and disappointing progress. It may yet fall a victim to the credit squeeze.

It is with regret that I realize that retirement will break my association with Otley, its councillors and officers ; with Mr. H. Halstead and his officers who have always been so helpful and co-operative and with Mr. H. R. Whitaker, Chief Sanitary Inspector and Mr. R. A. Fisher, Additional Sanitary Inspector, with whom my relations have always been close and cordial. To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee I tender my sincere thanks for the very real support and encouragement they have given me on many occasions.

I am, your obedient servant,

R. A. W. PROCTER,

Medical Officer of Health

SECTION I

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The total of live births in 1955 referable to the Otley district rose to 174 (78 males and 96 females) compared to 152 in 1954. Illegitimate births were slightly lower amounting to 3 males and 2 females. The crude birth rate was 15.4 per 1,000 population and after allowing for the age composition of the female population the adjusted birth rate was 16.1. Both these figures are slightly higher than those for the aggregate of Urban Districts and the West Riding County.

Stillbirths

In addition to the total of live births 4 babies were born dead equally divided between the sexes. This is one more than in the previous year and gives a stillbirth rate of 22.5 per 1,000 live and stillbirths. This figure is somewhat lower than the average for the rest of the country. One of these stillborn babies was premature, the remainder full term.

Deaths

A total of 143 deaths (65 males and 78 females) in 1955 were referable to the Otley district. This is ten less than the rather high figure for 1954. The crude and adjusted death rates for 1955 are therefore lower at 12.6 and 12.4 per 1,000 population respectively. These rates are almost the same as those for the aggregate of Urban Districts and slightly above those for the Administrative County of the West Riding. Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were considerably lower than in 1954; only 2 deaths compared to 7; while deaths from other respiratory diseases are somewhat higher. The death rate for heart and circulatory diseases is higher while the death rate for cancer is halved. Vascular lesions of the nervous system (apoplexy) shows a fall of one third from 27 deaths in 1954 to 18 in 1955.

Infant Mortality

Deaths of infants under one year in 1955 were 1 male and 6 females; 2 more than in 1954. But whereas in 1954 it was possible to say that only one death was preventable, one cannot say the same in this report. Two of the deaths occurred in the first day of life and one at four days' old due to cerebral injury and atelectasis. Although this cause of death is not preventable by parental care, it is at least in theory avoidable. One baby died at five days of burns due to a hot water bottle; two died at five weeks and six months respectively of broncho-pneumonia. One lived only one hour and had multiple congenital abnormalities. This last was the only truly unavoidable death.

Prematurity

In past reports I have drawn attention in strong terms to the loss of infant life due to prematurity. It is encouraging to study the figures for 1955. During that year there were 9 premature births referable to the Otley district and of these 1 was stillborn and 2 died. This is a very different story from that set out in my report for 1953 when there were 28 premature births with 11 deaths and 2 stillbirths. This big reduction in loss of life due to prematurity leads one to hope that the attention drawn to this matter and the increased antenatal visiting made possible by the arrangement with the hospital authorities enabling an expectant mother to indicate her wish for a visit, will lead to a permanent reduction in premature births.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	2,934
Registrar General's Estimated Population	11,320
Number of Inhabited Houses	4,328
Rateable Value	£116,917
Product of a Penny Rate	£435

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births :	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	75	94	169
Illegitimate	3	2	5
	—	—	—
Total	78	96	174
	—	—	—
Crude Rate per 1,000 Estimated Population	15.4		
Adjusted Rate per 1,000 Estimated Population	16.1		
Stillbirths :	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—
Total	2	2	4
	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	22.5		
Deaths :	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
	65	78	143
Crude corrected death rate all causes per 1,000 Estimated Population			12.6
Adjusted death rate all causes per 1,000 Estimated Population			12.4
Death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis			0.18
Death rate from Tuberculosis all forms			0.18
Death rate from Respiratory Diseases excluding Tuberculosis and including Influenza			1.59
Death rate from Cancer			1.24
Death rate from Heart and Circulatory Diseases			6.18
Infant Mortality :	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	1	6	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—
Total	1	6	7
	—	—	—
Death rate of Infants per 1,000 live births	40.2		
Causes of Death :	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	1	1	2
do. do. Lung, Bronchus	4	—	4
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	3	4	7
Leukaemia Aleukaemia	1	—	1
Diabetes	—	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	8	10	18
Coronary Disease, Angina	19	12	31
Hypertension with Heart Disease	4	6	10
Other Heart Disease	5	19	24

Causes of Death :	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Other Circulatory Disease	2	3	5
Influenza	1	—	1
Pneumonia	3	5	8
Bronchitis	6	3	9
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	—	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	2	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—	1
Congenital Malformations	—	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	6	8
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	2
All other Accidents	2	1	3
Suicide	—	2	2
	—	—	—
All Causes	65	78	143
	—	—	—

COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL TABLE

	<i>Otley Urban District</i>	<i>Aggregate of West Riding Urban Districts</i>	<i>West Riding Admini- strative County</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Birth Rates :				
Per 1,000 Estimated Population :				
Crude corrected rate	15.4	14.8	15.3	15.0
Adjusted rate	16.1	14.9	15.4	15.0
Death Rates :				
All per 1,000 Estimated Population :				
All causes, crude rate	12.6	12.5	11.7	11.7
All causes, adjusted rate	12.4	12.7	12.3	11.7
Infective and Parasitic Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis, but including Syphilis and other Venereal Diseases)	Nil	0.06	0.07	†
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0.18	0.11	0.11	0.13
Other forms of Tuberculosis	Nil	0.02	0.01	0.02
*Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	1.59	1.28	1.21	†
Cancer	1.24	2.03	1.90	2.06
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	6.18	4.71	4.39	†
Infant Mortality	40.2	25.2	26.2	24.9
Maternal Mortality	Nil	0.45	0.67	0.64

*Including Influenza.

†Figures not available.

SECTION II

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Staff

During the year the clerk in charge of the school health section resigned and her place was filled by promoting the junior clerk. A new junior clerk was engaged. I should like to take this opportunity of recording my indebtedness to the Chief Clerk and other members of the staff of the Divisional Health Office for their help during my period of service as Divisional Medical Officer.

Ambulance and Laboratory Services

Arrangements have continued as in previous years and have worked very smoothly.

Hospitals and Maternity Homes

There are no alterations in hospital arrangements to record.

Midwifery

Home confinements in Otley show a small reduction but in view of the fact that the doctors in the town urge their patients to be confined in hospital it is remarkable that 32 Otley women have realized the greater comfort and many other advantages of a home confinement and have had the sense to insist on doing what they wish.

	1955	1954	1953
Otley cases delivered	32	35	35
Post-natal visits	619	681	1,038

27 of these women had the benefit of gas and air analgesia and in only 6 cases was a doctor called in on account of some abnormality of pregnancy, labour or puerperium.

Home Nursing

At the beginning of 1955 the district nurses were working under great difficulties. The Nurses' Home, Farnley Lane was in the hands of the builders and there were only two nurses instead of three and one of these had to live in Shipley. Another nurse was engaged in April but she went to do her Queen's District Nurse Training in May and did not return until the beginning of September. The Nurses' Home was reoccupied as flats at the end of April and the two Otley nurses were accommodated there. A third flat was occupied temporarily by a new nurse who had been engaged for the Pool and Bramhope area of the Wharfedale Rural District, pending the allocation of a house in Pool by the Wharfedale Rural District Council. Owing to delay in building at Pool this latter nurse was still in occupation of an Otley flat when the third Otley Nurse returned from her Queen's Training. The situation was met by giving this nurse quarters in the Nurses' Home at Ilkley. We thus had the Pool nurse housed three miles from her centre of work and the Otley nurse living over six miles from the scene of her activities. It is needless to say that this was a most unsatisfactory position and regrettable to have to report that the situation remained unchanged at the end of the year. It will be readily understood that 1955 was a year fraught with considerable difficulties which were only met by the occasional use of temporary part time help and more particularly by the hard work and excellent co-operation of the nurses concerned. Visits paid have understandingly been less than in the previous year but still remain well above the figures for 1953. The proportion of old people needing nursing care shows a tendency towards a steady rise and these are usually heavy and time consuming cases.

	1955	1954	1953
Visits paid (in Otley)	5,121	5,447	4,829

Home Helps

In these days of full employment it is not easy to find women willing and suitable to undertake the exacting duties of a home help. It is no longer possible to pick out the best of a bunch of applicants but instead we must take what comes and be thankful if we can meet the essential needs of those requiring help. This has naturally made more difficult the task of allocating to each case the right type of home help. It has been necessary to scrutinize with care every demand made upon the service. This is the reason why in this division we have been able to keep within our establishment whereas in other areas where female labour is less in demand the establishment has been exceeded.

	1955	1954	1953
Maternity	8	8	12
Illness	6	8	8
Aged and Chronic Sick	62	57	54
Tuberculosis	1	1	—

Care of the Aged

This growing problem has received the earnest consideration of the Health Committee during the year. In the autumn Dr. C. V. Light, a well-known general practitioner, submitted a scheme to appoint a warden to each of the groups of Old Persons' Dwellings, Whiteley Croft and Leacroft and to provide accommodation for the care of any old person who might become ill. At the end of October this proposal was discussed by the Otley Health Committee with a sub-committee from the West Riding County Council. The latter were inclined to regard it as a precedent rather than as a pilot scheme and the reaction was far from favourable. The matter was further considered by the Health Committee at the end of December and remained undecided at the end of the year.

Ante-Natal Care

As indicated in my last report a Medical Officer's ante-natal clinic was discontinued at the end of 1954 but women were still able to come for blood tests or to see the Medical Officer if they wished at her clinic on Thursday mornings. 9 women of whom 8 were new cases made 14 such attendances. Ante-natal exercises and instruction have been further developed and regular talks often with film strips, have been given each week. This ante-natal instruction has been appreciated by those Otley women who are sufficiently enlightened to realize its benefit. Unfortunately this number is only just over one third of those who had babies during the year. 66 women made 526 attendances at the classes. This is an improvement on last year but not yet good enough.

Child Welfare Clinics

The attendances at the Otley Clinic show a further decline. This is at least partly explained by the migration of so many families with young children to the remoter parts of the Weston Lane Estate. It is a long way to push a pram and it is hardly to be wondered that in the winter or on a rainy day mothers hesitate to make the long journey.

Attendances at the Otley Clinic :

Number of children attending	287
Total Attendances (a) under 1 yr.	1,799
(b) over 1 yr.	1,084

Health Visiting

For most of the year the health visiting personnel remained unchanged ; but in October we suffered a severe loss in the retirement of Miss Ruth Adams who had worked so long in Otley and who was so well-known to Otley mothers. She will be sadly missed and very hard to replace. As a temporary measure a

part-time Assistant Health Visitor has been employed. Miss H. A. S. Johnstone whose part-time duties were confined to visiting old persons in connection with the Home Help Service retired at the end of the year. We shall feel her loss also as her work in this special field was outstanding. Visits paid by Health Visitors during 1955 show a slight increase over the figures for the previous year.

<i>Health Visiting</i>	<i>Expectant Mothers</i>	<i>Children under 1 yr.</i>	<i>Children 1—2</i>	<i>Children 2—5</i>	<i>T.B. Visits</i>	<i>Other Cases</i>
First Visits	84	167	—	—	—	—
Total Visits	163	1,403	1,070	877	159	343

Day Nurseries

In my previous report the policy of the West Riding County Council in restricting entries to the nursery was referred to and the consequences of general frustration and high per capita cost were mentioned. Towards the end of the year the inevitable happened and the County Council used the consequences of its own policy, namely diminished use of the nursery and high cost, as a pretext to close the nursery. The closure duly took place at the end of the year and Otley was thereby robbed of a very valuable public health amenity. Fortunately recent progress with the Otley Council's housing scheme had relieved many of the easess where housing difficulties made admission to the nursery desirable; but there still remain children in Otley where behaviour problems exist or where bad upbringing and domestic difficulties are having a detrimental effect. It is these children who derive most benefit from a period of nursery care. I therefore regard the closure of the Otley Day Nursery as a retrograde step.

<i>Day Nursery</i>	<i>No. of Places Approved</i>		<i>No. of children on register at 31st Dec., 1955</i>		<i>Average daily attendance during year</i>		<i>Approved for training</i>
	0—2	2—5	0—2	2—5	0—2	2—5	
Otley Day Nursery	12	28	2	8	3	9	Yes

Vaccination and Immunization

It is most disappointing to find that the number of children who received primary immunization against diphtheria was only half that of the previous year. It suggests that the immunization state of the children in Otley is down to a dangerously low level and there must be a risk of the reappearance of diphtheria in the community. It is an unpleasant thought that only the death of one or two infants from diphtheria will bring home to the people of Otley the importance of this simple protective measure. Vaccinations against smallpox and inoculations against whooping cough also show a fall. In view of the evidence which is accumulating that inoculation with whooping cough vaccine does confer a high degree of immunity it is astonishing that Otley parents do not take advantage of the facilities offered in greater numbers. It is possible that when a combined whooping cough and diphtheria vaccine has been approved by the Medical Research Council and put into use parents will be less reluctant to take advantage of it. Towards the end of the year preliminary steps were taken for the introduction of vaccination against poliomyelitis. It is probable that in 1957 this protective measure will be established as a routine procedure. This emphasizes the importance of introducing a combined vaccine for immunization against diphtheria and whooping cough. Such a vaccine exists

and is used by many general practitioners but it has not yet been approved by the Ministry of Health and therefore cannot be used at Local Health Authority Clinics. So in future a parent who wishes a baby to be fully protected must submit the unfortunate child to vaccination against smallpox, three injections against whooping cough, two against diphtheria and two against poliomyelitis a total of eight protective procedures in the first 18 months of life

School Health

The total of school medical inspections was lower than in the previous year being 783 compared to 1,102. The nutritional standard was again highly satisfactory. About 22% of the children examined had some defect requiring treatment. This is about the average. These defects at the time of discovery are often quite trivial but might often become more serious if neglected. They are unlikely to come to light at an early stage except at school medical inspection when the school doctor is especially on the alert for such minor conditions. This underlines the importance of school medical inspection as a preventive measure.

	<i>Entrants</i>	<i>7—8 yr. Group</i>	<i>First Year Sec.</i>	<i>Last Year Sec.</i>	<i>Special exams</i>	<i>Re- exams</i>
Total number in- spected	159	235	205	145	17	22
Defects found :						
(a) requiring treatment	45	57	41	19	12	—
(b) to be kept under observation	23	31	11	1	3	—
Nutritional state :						
A. Good	137	205	171	117	—	—
B. Fair	21	30	34	27	—	—
C. Poor	1	—	—	1	—	—

SECTION III

HEALTH AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

An increase in the number of births and a fall in the number of deaths indicates a fortunate year for the health of Otley and the appearance of the school children after a fine, sunny summer certainly suggested that there was not much wrong with the health of the town. However, the fact that there were three definitely preventable infant deaths reminds us that there is no room for complacency. A long dry summer with a serious deficiency of rain caused great anxiety for the adequacy of the water supply. Otley's supply stood up to the test splendidly and although certain restrictions were imposed not only did the town not go short of water but it was possible to help the neighbouring district of Ilkley with supplies above the statutory requirement. The only extensions of water supply were in connection with the Weston Lane Housing Estate. The quality of the water as usual was satisfactory. When in my report for 1954 I mentioned how badly the scheme for taking a sewer along north bank of the Wharfe was needed. I did not imagine that the end of 1955 would find the scheme still in the air and under discussion. As this improvement has been needed for years on health grounds and as the matter has been under constant consideration since 1948 and especially as the cost now will be three times what it would have been if undertaken promptly a certain feeling of frustration

among councillors and officers is hardly surprising. It only remains to express a hope that the year 1956 will see the scheme well on the way to completion. In the post-war years Otley's housing programme was slow in getting under way but since 1953 excellent progress has been made. In 1955 the council completed no less than 126 new houses making a total during the past three years of 280. Twelve new houses were built by private enterprise and thirty improvements grants were approved for the improvement of existing property. All this means substantial progress in housing in the town and when the slum clearance programme of the next five years has been completed most of the more urgent housing problems will have been solved.

SECTION IV

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The total of infectious disease notifications during 1955 rose to 311 compared to 169 in 1954. This increase is more than accounted for by the measles epidemic which occurred in the spring. The only other disease to show a higher prevalence was food poisoning owing to the outbreak which occurred in August and September.

Measles

As indicated in my report for 1954 a high incidence of measles was to be expected in 1955. The anticipated epidemic started in late February and terminated by the middle of May. During that short period 218 cases out of the annual total of 223 were recorded. The disease affected principally children between the ages of three and seven ; it was mild in character and complications were exceptional. No death occurred from the disease or from its after-effects.

Whooping Cough

In the annual report of 1954 disappointment was expressed that Otley parents had not availed themselves with sufficient enthusiasm of the opportunity to have their babies protected against whooping cough by inoculation and as a result the figure for that year remained high at 41. During 1955 Otley mothers have taken more kindly to the idea and the notifications of Whooping Cough have fallen to 7 cases none of whom have been inoculated against the disease. This rather dramatic decrease may of course only be due to the low incidence of the disease throughout the country ; but in view of the fact that whooping cough notifications in Otley over the previous seven years averaged 66 it is reasonable to claim that this favourable picture is partly due to the increasing proportion of young children protected against the disease.

Dysentery

Owing to an outbreak of sonne dysentery in the middle of the year 1954 the total of notifications for that year was the high figure of 63. The year 1955 was spared any similar epidemic and only 11 notifications were received, none of which was confirmed by laboratory tests and most of which displayed only mild symptoms.

Scarlet Fever

The notifications of this disease in 1955 were only 8 compared to 23 in 1954. The disease remains of low virulence and complications are rare.

Food Poisoning

No case of food poisoning was notified during the first seven months of the year 1955. At the end of August a considerable outbreak commenced and continued into the early part of September. The outbreak was due to infection

with a germ called *Salmonella Typhimurium*. Most careful investigation failed to prove how the organism was introduced into the town and how it was spread. There was however, strong circumstantial evidence that the vehicle of infection was locally manufactured meat products. The outbreak quickly subsided and only 2 other cases were reported in neither of which was it possible to incriminate any particular food.

Poliomyelitis

In a year during which this disease was moderately prevalent throughout the country Otley was perhaps fortunate in having only 3 cases of poliomyelitis during 1955. One of these was a very severe case and the other two very mild. The presence of the disease in the neighbourhood caused a temporary suspension in the autumn of diphtheria immunizations at clinics and of tonsilleotomies at hospitals.

Puerperal Pyrexia

7 cases of fever after childbirth were notified, all of which took place in the General Hospital. Only 3 of these patients were normally resident in Otley and in no case was it a sign of any serious complication.

Pneumonia

10 cases of pneumonia, 9 in the first quarter, were notified during 1955. 1 of these patients died of influenzal pneumonia.

Diphtheria

It is again possible to report that no case of diphtheria occurred during the year in the Otley district. Continued freedom from the disease can only be guaranteed by a substantial increase in the proportion of young children immunized against the disease.

SECTION V

TUBERCULOSIS

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
(a) Number on register at 1 1 55	37	29	6	4
(b) Number of cases notified for first time in 1954	2	1	1	—
(c) Number of names restored to register	—	—	—	—
(d) Number of cases added to register other than by notification	3	3	—	—
(e) Number of cases removed from register	5	4	3	3
(f) Number of cases remaining on register at end of 1955	37	29	4	1

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1955

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0—5	—	—	—	—
6—10	—	—	1	—
11—20	—	—	—	—
20—40	1	1	—	—
41—60	1	—	—	—
Over 60	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	1	1	—

2 males and 1 female were notified as new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 1 male as non-pulmonary tuberculosis. This total of 3 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary new cases represents a dramatic fall compared to the 13 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary cases reported in 1954. This however, does not represent such a large decrease as appearances would suggest. As explained in my last report, in the past all cases occurring within a district used to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health of that district whether the person concerned was ordinarily resident in that district or not. In 1955 notifications of new cases of tuberculosis have been sent to the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the person is ordinarily resident. This has meant that the Otley register is no longer burdened with cases from the General Hospital, Otley not ordinarily resident in Otley. Even allowing for the changed notification procedure the incidence of tuberculosis has been low during 1955. This is an encouraging feature although there can be no guarantee at present that this low level will be maintained. In addition to new notifications 2 male and 2 female pulmonary patients were added to the list on coming to live in Otley and the names of 1 male and 1 female previously unnotified were shown in the Registrar-General's Death Return as having died of pulmonary tuberculosis were added to the register and subsequently removed. 2 male and 3 female pulmonary patients left the Otley district, 2 males recovered and there were the 2 deaths just mentioned. 1 female non-pulmonary patient left the district and 3 males and 2 females were reported as recovered. As the result of these various adjustments the number of pulmonary cases remaining on the register is the same as at the end of 1954, viz.: 37 males and 29 females. The number of non-pulmonary cases was reduced to 4 males and 1 female compared to 6 males and 4 females at the end of 1954.

There was no visit of the Mass Radiography Unit during the year 1955 but a visit is to be expected in the middle of 1956.

MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i>	<i>Dec.</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Pneumonia	4	2	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	—	8
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery	—	1	—	6	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	11
Whooping Cough	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	7
Measles	—	22	125	47	24	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	223
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	1	—	—	2	3	—	1	—	—	—	7
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	10	2	—	—	41
Poliomylitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	3
Totals	6	28	130	53	28	4	5	30	14	7	5	1	311

TABLE SHOWING CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR

	<i>Pneumonia</i>		<i>Scarlet Fever</i>		<i>Erysipelas</i>		<i>Dysentery</i>		<i>Whooping Cough</i>		<i>Measles</i>		<i>Puerperal Pyrexia</i>		<i>Food Poisoning</i>		<i>Polio-myelitis</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Numbers originally notified	5	5	6	2	—	1	9	2	1	6	109	114	—	7	23	18	2	1
Final numbers after corrections :																		
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	—	—	—	1	—	—
1—2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	7	—	—	—	—	1	—
2—3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	13	—	—	4	—	—	—
3—4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	20	—	—	1	1	—	—
4—5	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	1	2	14	16	—	—	1	—	—	—
5—10	—	1	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	4	45	50	—	—	2	—	1	—
10—15	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
20—35	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	6	—	4	6	—	1
35—45	2	2	—	—	—	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—
45—65	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	4	—	—
65	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	5	6	2	—	1	9	2	1	6	109	114	—	7	23	18	2	1

OTLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
1955

COUNCIL OFFICES,
NORTH PARADE,
OTLEY.
June, 1956

To the Chairman and Members of the Otley Urban District Council,

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

The information which follows gives a brief summary of the work in my section and the sanitary conditions obtaining in your district during my eighth year of office.

Every effort has been made to safeguard public health in the area by prompt attention to complaints, nuisance abatement, and the control of infectious disease.

The results of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 so far as rent increases and certificates of disrepair are concerned have been disappointing. Only five applications have been dealt with during the year.

A slum clearance scheme has been formulated and work is proceeding on inspections of the proposed 'Slum clearance' properties.

Housing improvement grant applications (36 in all) accounted for quite an amount of work in preparing the application report data, following the work during progress, and final checking and certification on completion.

The work of the department throughout the year has been varied and interesting and I would here record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their kindly support and help during 1955. My thanks also to Dr. R. A. W. Procter, Medical Officer of Health and to the other Officers and Members of the Staff for their help throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. R. WHITAKER.

HOUSING

House building progress during the year resulted in the erection by the Otley Urban District Council of 126 permanent type houses. 12 houses were provided during the year by private enterprise.

Comparative figures since 1948 are as follows :—

1948	100 houses provided
1949	56 " "
1950	24 " "
1951	22 " "
1952	17 " "
1953	43 " "
1954	116 " "
1955	138 " "

Last year, mention was made of the request of the Minister of Housing and Local Government that all Local Authorities submit proposals for slum clearance schemes before the 30th August, 1955.

In March 1955, a preliminary survey for your District was prepared (as a guide to the Public Health Committee) in which 125 dwellings were listed. This was presented to the Public Health Committee on the 7th March, 1955 and members were asked to peruse, and let the Sanitary Inspector know of any additions, amendments to or deletions from the lists for the next meeting of the Committee. No alterations to the lists were submitted by the 2nd May, 1955, therefore the Committee decided to visit the premises listed, which they did on the Saturdays 18th and 25th June, and the 2nd July, 1955.

Following these visits and after due consideration in Committee, the Council's programme of slum clearance was announced and published in the local press.

This programme consists of 106 premises and the original proposals allow (subject to rehousing possibilities) for dealing with this scheme within four years.

Essential repairs to properties have mostly been carried out by owners on informal notice from this department. In 18 cases it was necessary to serve statutory notices for the remedy of housing defects, 4 of which were remedied by this Authority in default of the owners. The cost of these works is recovered from the owners. No court action has been necessary during the year.

Five applications were received during the year for certificates of disrepair under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954. Certificates were granted in each case.

There is no accurate information available as to the incidence of statutory overcrowding in this area, but the number of suspected cases brought to notice is not unduly high. All suspected cases are investigated. These investigations resulted in two cases of overcrowding affecting sixteen persons being relieved during the year.

Statutory overcrowding as set out in the Housing Act, 1936 is a very distressing state of affairs because in assessing premises for overcrowding, living rooms, sitting rooms and the like must be counted as sleeping rooms. The points system adopted by this Council sets a standard of overcrowding which is definitely to the advantage of the housing applicant and in cases of 'near' or 'actual' overcrowding it secures for the applicant valuable points in favour of his consideration for the tenancy of a Council house.

HOUSING STATISTICS 1955

Number of dwelling houses in district	4,328
Number of back to back houses included in above	168
1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year	
(1) (a) For housing defects	727
(b) No. of inspections made for purpose	1,396
(2) (a) Houses inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations	134
(b) No. of inspections made for purpose	417
(3) (a) No. of houses considered to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	105
(b) No. of houses not in all respects fit for human habitation	718
2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices	
(a) Defective dwellings rendered fit	23
(b) Dwelling houses in which defects were remedied by informal action	709
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year	
(a) Proceedings under Secs. 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
1. No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	18

(2) (a) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied by owners after service of formal notices	10
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	4
(c) Proceedings under Secs. 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) No. of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling houses unfit for habitation	Nil
(2) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	Nil
(d) Proceedings under Sec. 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—underground rooms closed	1
4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding	
(a) No. of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	Not known
(b) No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	2
(c) i. No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	2
ii. No. of persons concerned in such cases	16
5. New Houses	
No. of new houses provided during the year by Local Authority :	
Permanent type	126
Temporary type	Nil
By Private Enterprise	12
6. Housing Act, 1949	
Any action under Sec. 20 (Grants for Improvements to Housing accommodation)	YES
	36 applications received
	30 grants approved

Improvement Grants

The Housing Act, 1949, as amended by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, enables local authorities to make "improvement grants" to private owners for the provision of dwellings by the conversion of houses or other buildings, or for the improvement of dwellings provided that :—

- an application is made to the local authority and approved by them before the improvement works are started ;
- the local authority are satisfied that the dwellings provided or improved by means of the improvement works will provide satisfactory housing accommodation for a period of not less than 30 years after the completion of the works ; or in a case where such period is less than 30 years, but more than 15 years, if the local authority are satisfied that in all the circumstances it would be expedient to approve the application ;
- all such dwellings conform with certain requirements when the improvement works are completed ;
- the applicant owns the freehold of the land, or has a leasehold interest with not less than 30 years unexpired at the date of the application or, if less than 30 years, the period is at least equal to that for which the dwelling will provide satisfactory housing accommodation ;
- the estimated expenses of executing the improvement works or, where more than one dwelling is being provided or improved, the proportion of those expenses attributable to each resulting dwelling is not less than £100. There is no maximum limit to the expenses for grant purposes.

This Council decided during 1954 to consider applications for improvement grants. The work of inspecting the property before, during and on completion of improvement ; the pricing, estimating, and reporting on improvement proposals has been undertaken by your Sanitary Department.

At the close of the year 36 applications had been received and considered and 30 grants were made.

CAMPING SITES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

All camping sites and moveable dwellings were visited during the year. No nuisance was noted at the authorised camping sites. Three sites used by gypsy families were unsuitable, and action was necessary in these instances.

Clarion Clubhouse, West Chevin.—A licensed camping site with provision for a maximum of 50 campers. At no time during the year has the camp been used to capacity. Seven moveable dwellings were sited on the camp.

White House Farm, Chevin Side.—A licensed camping site with provision for a maximum of 50 campers. At no time during the year has the camp been used to capacity. The site is without an approach road, and is therefore used for hutments only. There were eight hutments on the camp. These are painted green so as to blend with the natural colouring of the Chevin side.

East Busk Lane—The Orchard.—One moveable dwelling sited on this land is the subject of individual licence. The licence is granted for a period of not more than 12 months, renewable at the discretion of the Council.

Showfield.—During the year four persons were granted licences for caravans on this site.

The caravans are the subject of individual licences terminable by the Council at their discretion.

West Riding County Council, Highways Dept.—Pool Road, Yorkgate and East Chevin.—These sites were used during the year by gypsies. The sites are not suitable and are not provided with water or sanitary accommodation or means of disposal of washing water. Action was taken for the removal of the campers.

Bridge End Fair Ground.—The caravan dwellers using the Bridge End Fair Ground were all provided with chemical closets and made satisfactory arrangements for water supply. Generally the site was left tidy at the termination of the fairs. This type of moveable dwelling is outside the scope of licensing.

NUISANCES

The investigation of nuisances and visits to check on the abatement of nuisances accounted for a total of 1,829 inspections. Of 853 nuisances found during the year plus 11 outstanding nuisances from 1954, 860 were abated at the 31st December, 1955, thus leaving 4 still to be remedied.

Statutory notices served and outstanding in 18 cases were reduced to 6 outstanding by the end of the year.

In no instance was it necessary to take legal proceedings for the abatement of nuisances.

Informal Notices served	864
Informal Notices complied with	860
Statutory Notices served	18
Statutory Notices complied with	12
Legal Proceedings	Nil

Works carried out for the abatement of nuisances listed herewith :—

Premises, Repairs, Improvements, etc.

Pavings, yards	3
Roofs, valley gutters, flashings, etc.	16
Chimney stacks, flues, pots, etc.	6
Eaves spouts	10

Fallpipes	7
Walls, brickwork, pointing	4
Windowframes, cords, etc.	1
Wallplaster	1
Floors	4
Stairs repaired	1
Waste pipes	18
Water supply improved	4
Repairs to water closets	24
Dustbins provided	70
Verminous houses disinfested	19
Tents, Vans, Sheds, removed	13
Dampness remedied	2
Drainage	
Drains repaired	34
Drains relaid	12
Drains cleansed and stoppages removed	469
Drain tests	58
Gullies renewed or provided	6
Inspection chambers repaired	4
Cesspools emptied	12
Cesspools abolished	1
General	
Premises cleared of rats or mice	49
Offensive matter removed	3
Accumulation of refuse removed	53
Other nuisances remedied	16
Wasps nests taken	2
	<hr/>
	922
	<hr/>

WATER SUPPLY

The public water supply is derived from March Ghyll Reservoir, Gooseland Spring, Borehole and from Dades Well. Throughout the year this supply has proved satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Bacteriological and chemical control of the supplies is maintained by routine sampling, bacteriological samples being submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Wakefield and the chemical samples to Messrs. Richardson & Jaffe (analysts) Bradford. Check is also kept on the pH value of March Ghyll water so as to guard against the possibility of plumbo solveny.

11 Chemical tests of town's water proved satisfactory.

5 Bacteriological tests of town's water proved satisfactory.

The Council's main supply water to 4,297 houses and 31 houses have private supplies. The reason for the retention of the private water supply is that the premises are either too isolated or at too great a height to be reached by the existing mains supply.

Sampling of 6 private water supplies showed them to be satisfactory

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Preparation of schemes for dealing with sewerage from the north of the river are still going on.

The total number of closets in the Urban area is 4,718 of which 4,680 are water closets.

30 houses in the area are not served by the Council's sewers because either they are isolated by distance from the sewer or in such a position as to make it impossible to connect them to the sewer.

The premises not connected to sewers are in the main catered for by means of pail closets or are provided with cesspools.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION

The work of infectious diseases enquiry and the disinfection of premises after removal of the infectious disease cases to isolation hospital or termination of disease has, throughout the year received prompt attention.

153 visits were made for notifiable disease enquiry and 2 premises (7 rooms) fumigated. Disinfection is carried out by spraying with Formalin and then fumigating with Formaldehyde gas.

In addition 5 premises (14 rooms) were fumigated on request of the occupiers following deaths from malignant disease, or changes of tenancy.

One lot of library books (60 books) were disinfected.

Infectious disease patients from this area are taken for treatment to either :

Seacroft Infectious Diseases Hospital, Leeds ;

Leeds Road Infectious Diseases Hospital, Bradford ;

Morton Banks Isolation Hospital, Keighley ; or

Thistle Hill Hospital, Knaresborough.

DISINFESTATION

Disinfestation is carried out for the ridding of premises of insect pests, rats and mice.

During the year it has been necessary to deal with the following infestations :—

Silverfish (<i>Lepisma saccharina</i>)	2 infestations
Bed bugs (<i>Cimex Lectularius</i>)	2 "
Cockroaches (<i>Blatta orientalis</i>)	6 "
Fleas (<i>Pulex irritans</i>)	3 "
Wasps (<i>Vespa Spp</i>)	2 "
House fly (<i>Musca Domestica</i>)	6 "
Rats (<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>)	44 "
Mice (<i>Mus musculus</i>)	5 "

Insect and kindred pests were dealt with by spraying and fumigating with Gammexane preparations. In all cases the treatments were successful.

Rat and mouse infestations were dealt with by Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries approved methods of poison baiting and trapping. All infestations found in the area were classified as "minor," there being no "major" or "reservoir" infestations within the Urban area. All infestations were successfully treated.

The services of rat and mouse destruction are offered to the ratepayers free of charge.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION

There are no private slaughterhouses in the district. All slaughtering of food animals is carried out at the Council's Public Abattoir, Bondgate.

Each 'tenant' butcher has his own slaughterhouse in which he is responsible for the day to day work, cleaning, lime washing, etc.

Rentals and headage charges are payable by the tenant butchers in accordance with the following :—

	£	s.	d.	
Rent of individual slaughterhouse (Otley butcher)	5	0	0	p.a.
Rent of individual slaughterhouse (butcher outside Otley U.D.C.)	10	0	0	"
Headage charge for cattle	0	6	0	each
Headage charge for sheep	0	1	6	"
Headage charge for pigs	0	4	0	"
Headage charge for calves	0	2	6	"

Accommodation slaughter users, that is butchers not having rented slaughterhouses, but who are offered slaughtering facilities at the Council's abattoir do not pay rental, but the headage charges payable are double those due from 'tenant' butchers.

All animals brought to the abattoir are (with very few exceptions) examined by your Meat Inspector before slaughter. After slaughter the carcasses and all organs (without exception) are thoroughly examined and all unsound, diseased or otherwise unfit meat is rejected.

During 1955, the work involved the examination of 6,535 food animals, 346 condemnations, and the rejection of 3 tons 15 cwts. 1 qtr. 12 lbs. of meat.

The following table shows the different species of animals and the number of whole carcasses or parts condemned for tuberculosis and other diseases :—

	<i>Cattle excl. Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed	1,334	130	60	4,529	482	Nil
Number inspected	1,334	130	60	4,529	482	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci : Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	6	4	3	Nil
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	106	11	Nil	21	2	Nil
Percentage of the number Inspected and affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	7.94	8.46	10.0	.55	1.03	Nil
Tuberculosis only : Whole carcasses condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	104	20	Nil	Nil	14	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	7.87	15.38	Nil	Nil	3.52	Nil
Cysticercosis : Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Classification and Weights of Condemned Food

	<i>lbs.</i>
Beef and Offals	6,111
Mutton and Offals	336
Pork and Offals	1,570
Veal and Offals	425
Other Foods	270
	<hr/>
	8,712
	<hr/>

or 3 tons 17 cwts. 3 qtrs. 4 lbs.

During the year a total of 270 lbs. food other than butchers' meat was condemned as unfit for human consumption and was surrendered to the department for disposal. This food was disposed of by burying at the Ings tip.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

All animals slaughtered at the Abattoir are humanely stunned by "Cash Captive Bolt Pistol" prior to slaughter. The Council provide the pistols for use at the Abattoir and during the year two were in regular use and two held in stock. Cartridges (1½ grain for smaller animals and 2 grain for larger animals) for use in the pistols are provided by the Council.

The firearms certificate for the pistols is held by your Meat and Foods Inspector.

All slaughtermen employed at the Abattoir are fully experienced in the use of the gun, and are duly licensed to perform the duty of stunning.

The number of licensed slaughtermen on the register at the end of the year was 36.

There has been no cause for complaint regarding the handling of animals throughout the year.

MILK SUPPLIES

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, also

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949

The supervision of the distribution of milk is the duty of the Local Authority, and at the close of the year 20 milk distributors were registered within the area.

27 dealers' licences and 17 supplementary licences were issued by the Council for the retailing of Milk under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949 and Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949. 6 licences were for the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk, 30 for the sale of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk, and 8 for the sale of Sterilised Milk.

No breach of the regulations was met with during the year.

ICE CREAM

The total registrations of premises for the sale of ice cream under Food and Drugs Act, 1938, at the end of the year was 34.

Every effort has been made to inspect these premises especially during the summer season and in all 91 visits were made to ice cream premises.

It is pleasing to record that premises were clean and satisfactory in all cases.

BAKEHOUSES, FRIED FISH SHOPS, CAFES, etc.

Inspections have been made of most of the bakehouses, butchers shops, fried fish shops, cafes and other food premises in the area during the year.

These inspections enable the Department to point out matters needing immediate attention and also form a basis from which improvements can be suggested. Unfortunately when matters of urgency are to be dealt with routine inspections are the first to lapse so that continuity of contact with food handling staff is interfered with and the real value of routine visits is lost. The coming of the new Food and Drugs Legislation promised some time ago is awaited.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL, AND SALVAGE RECOVERY

The collection of household refuse proceeded throughout the year without major difficulty. A service varying from seven to nine days was maintained (in addition to which shops' refuse was collected each Thursday) throughout the year.

No charge is made for the removal of trades refuse from shops, business premises, etc.

Regular supervision of the refuse collection services and disposal points has been maintained throughout the year.

The Service comprised the following staff and equipment :—

Refuse Collection One Karrier Bantam 7 cu. yards refuse vehicle fitted with salvage trailer with driver and two loaders for No. 1 district east of Kirkgate, south of the river.
One Karrier Bantam 7 cu. yards refuse vehicle fitted with salvage trailer with driver and two loaders for No. 2 district west of Kirkgate, south of the river.
One Karrier Bantam 7 cu. yards refuse vehicle fitted with salvage trailer with driver and two loaders for No. 3 district north of the river.

Refuse Disposal Two men.

Salvage Recovery One man.

A total of 12 men and 3 vehicles.

Wages and conditions of the workmen are in accordance with the National Union of Public Employees trades union rules. The working week is 44 hours and the week is spread over five and a half days in winter, and over five days for the rest of the year. Protective clothing provided for the drivers, loaders and tipmen includes waterproof sou'wester, jacket, leggings, wellington boots and leather gloves.

Ings Tip continued to be used for the disposal of refuse.

As in previous years some interference with the tip and salvage shed has been experienced. Certain precautions have been taken to safeguard salvaged metals during collection.

In addition to the disposal of household refuse at Ings Tip contractors working in the area are allowed to deposit builders' and contractors' refuse. No charge is made for this service.

The salvaging of waste paper, metals, rags, carpet and string continued throughout the year.

All our salvaged paper was disposed of under contract to Messrs. J. Shaw and Sons, Bradford, who have on all occasions given the Council good service.

The price for salvaged paper lifted during the year and rose of 7 - per cwt. to 8 - per cwt. for mixed waste and 10 - per cwt. for fibreboard. Under the terms of contract with Messrs. Shaw's the Council received current market prices for waste paper throughout the year.

The disposal of scrap ferrous metal during the year was a little easier especially the sale of "uneconomic" scrap such as old dustbins, light metal cisterns, tin cans and other light metal articles. Messrs. Holmes of Leeds collect all our scrap metals and pay current market prices.

The income from salvage during the year 1955 was £968 18s. 0d., made up as follows :

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qtrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Waste Paper	82	6	2	0	681	1	6
Fibreboard	10	0	0	0	98	5	0
Light scrap metal (ferrous)	24	8	2	0	30	10	5
Heavy scrap metal (ferrous)	20	5	2	0	81	2	0
Scrap metal (non-ferrous)	—	8	3	25	57	2	8
Rags	1	1	0	0	18	0	0
Miscellaneous sales	—	—	—	—	2	16	5
	138	10	1	25	968	18	0

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The unattended public conveniences in the town are cleaned at least twice per day including Saturday and Sunday.

Once again wilful damage by the public has been experienced in the matter of breaking coin boxes, fittings, etc., at the public conveniences.

Newmarket Conveniences, hours of attendance—when all the facilities offered (including wash service) are available are as follows :

1st May to 30th Sept. inclusive

Monday	10-00 a.m. to 10-30 p.m.
Tuesday	10-00 a.m. to 10-00 p.m.
Wednesday	10-00 a.m. to 10-00 p.m.
Thursday	10-00 a.m. to 10-00 p.m.
Friday	10-00 a.m. to 10-30 p.m.
Saturday	9-00 a.m. to 11-00 p.m.
Sunday	9-00 a.m. to 10-00 p.m.

1st Oct. to 30th April inclusive

Monday	1-30 p.m. to 8-30 p.m.
Tuesday	3-30 p.m. to 8-00 p.m.
Wednesday	3-30 p.m. to 8-00 p.m.
Thursday	4-00 p.m. to 8-00 p.m.
Friday	1-00 p.m. to 9-00 p.m.
Saturday	1-00 p.m. to 9-00 p.m.
Sunday	1-00 p.m. to 9-00 p.m.

DEALERS IN OLD METAL

(Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907)—Sec. 86

This section of the above enactment requires all persons carrying on business as dealers in old metals to be registered by the Local Authority and to keep records of metals bought and sold.

An officer of the Local Authority or any other person duly authorised in writing shall at all reasonable times have access to the premises and may inspect books required to be kept, relating to the business of dealer in old metal. In this respect the Council appointed your Sanitary Inspector as registration and inspecting officer, and a number of Police Officers as persons duly authorised for the purposes of the Act.

Eight persons are registered as Dealers in Old Metal.

FACTORIES

The number of factories within the Urban District is 87, of which 78 are factories with mechanical power and 9 without mechanical power.

In factories without mechanical power the Local Authority is responsible for the inspection and supervision of cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, drainage of floors, sanitary conveniences, and means of escape in case of fire as defined in the Factories Act, 1937.

In factories with mechanical power the Local Authority is responsible only for the inspection and supervision of sanitary conveniences and means of escape in case of fire. Other matters in power factories are the concern of H.M. Factories Inspectors.

Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health :

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of Inspections</i>
1. Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, enforced by Local Authorities	9	21
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	78	103
Total	87	124

Cases in which defects were found.

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>		
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred by H.M. Inspector</i>
Want of cleanliness	3	3	—
Unreasonable temperature	1	1	—
Inadequate ventilation	3	3	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	—
Sanitary conveniences unsuitable or defective	6	5	3
Not separate for sexes	2	2	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	2	1	—
Total	18	16	3

44 persons were employed on outwork, 2 of whom were employed in the making of wearing apparel, 39 in carding and packeting of buttons and miscellaneous goods, and three in textile work.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT 1928

38 premises were licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit during the year. Petroleum spirit for the purposes of the Act is defined as a product of petroleum or mixture containing petroleum which when tested in the manner prescribed by or under the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928, gives off an inflammable vapour at a temperature of less than 73 degrees Fahrenheit. Carbide of Calcium and Cellulose mixtures are included in the definition of petroleum.

The whole of the licences issued allow for the storage of :

33,300 gallons of petrol

470 gallons of cellulose solution

168 pounds of calcium carbide.

No breach of the Act was met with during the several visits of inspection made to these licensed premises.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

During the year 143 visits were made to retail shops under the above Act. 11 defects were found (of which 9 were remedied at the close of the year) as shown :

Defective water closets repaired	4
Ventilation improved	3
Means of maintaining suitable temperature provided	4

WEST RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL (GENERAL POWERS) ACT, 1951

Section 120 of the above Act with respect to Hairdressers and Barbers requires registration by the Local Authority of :

- (1) Any person who carries on the business of a hairdresser or a barber ; and
- (2) Any premises used for the purpose of carrying on the business of a hairdresser or barber.

On the 1st February, 1953, byclaws came into operation in the district for the purpose of securing :

- (a) the cleanliness of the premises, instruments, towels, materials and equipment ; and
- (b) the cleanliness of persons employed and their clothing.

Routine inspections were made throughout the year of the 8 registered premises.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Under the Pet Animals Act, 1951, no persons may keep a pet shop on or after the 1st April, 1952, except under the authority of a licence granted by the Local Authority, who may grant the licence subject to compliance with such conditions for the comfort, health, safety and welfare of animals kept as may be specified.

Only one licence was granted during the year. This related to a shop in Kirkgate Arcade. No breach of the Act was met during the year.

HACKNEY CARRIAGES

4 Hackney Carriage licences were granted during the year and 11 Hackney Carriage Driver's licences were issued.

All vehicles are first inspected by the West Riding Constabulary for mechanical soundness and licences are withheld until a certificate of suitability is received.

Drivers must satisfy the West Riding Constabulary as to their driving capability and a certificate of suitability must be received by this Authority before a licence is granted.

There are no byclaws in force in the District for the control of Hackney Carriages, nor is there a specified taxi rank within the area. The Council prescribe the fares to be charged and the method of arriving at the charge.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES (Taxi-Cabs)

	<i>Vehicle licensed to carry 1—4 passengers</i>	<i>Vehicle licensed to carry 5—7 passengers</i>
For each mile	1s. 9d.	2s. 3d.
For any journey under one mile a fixed charge of	2s. 6d. (This charge does not apply to journeys over one mile)	2s. 6d.
Standing time (per hour)	5s. 0d.	5s. 0d.
12 midnight to 6 a.m.	Double the Charges authorised above	

No complaints were received during the year.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

37 smoke observations were taken during the year as a result of which 9 cautions were issued.

In the Urban Area no byelaws exist for the determination of smoke nuisances consequently, in order to gain some standard the Council declared by resolution that "the emission of black smoke from a chimney of any building other than a private house for more than two minutes in any period of thirty minutes, shall until the contrary is proved, be deemed to be a smoke nuisance."

A soot deposit gauge for the measurement of atmospheric pollution is stationed in the Nursery Gardens, Westgate, and thanks are due to the proprietors for permitting the use of this land for the purpose of siting the gauge. Throughout the year there was no interference with the apparatus. The site is representative of the "industrial" part of the town, but even so the pollution figures compare favourably with other townships.

The gauge collecting bottle is changed monthly and the contents of the bottle analysed by Messrs. Richardson and Jaffe, Bradford.

Sulphur pollution measurement is achieved by exposing a prepared surface of lead peroxide to the atmosphere for one month. Analysis of the prepared surface after exposure determines the amount of sulphur deposited per day on the prepared surface. This apparatus is also sited at the Nursery Gardens, Westgate.

Smoke and suspended matter in the atmosphere is measured by the volumetric method in which a volume of atmosphere is filtered and measured and the filter stain compared with a prepared shade card. This apparatus is set up in the Council Offices, North Parade. The filter paper is changed every 24 hours.

The records from the atmospheric pollution apparatus are listed herewith :

Soot Deposit

<i>Month</i>	<i>Rainfall (inches)</i>	<i>Tons per square mile</i>		
		<i>Total Insoluble</i>	<i>Total Soluble</i>	<i>Total Solids</i>
January	0.81	4.47	5.97	10.44
February	1.40	2.90	4.16	7.06
March	1.84	4.47	7.13	11.60
April	1.08	5.38	2.65	8.03
May	1.84	4.29	10.69	14.98
June	2.59	10.34	8.73	19.07
July	0.38	5.90	2.03	7.93
August	0.65	5.97	2.45	8.42
September		No result		
October	2.16	4.12	7.83	11.95
November	1.94	2.94	8.31	11.25
December	4.91	9.64	20.96	30.60

Sulphur

<i>Month</i>	<i>Weight of SO₃ collected in mg/100 sq. cm/day</i>
January	1.54
February	1.31
March	1.02
April	1.06
May	0.46
June	0.36
July	0.26
August	0.44
September	0.30
October	0.38
November	1.14
December	1.31

Smoke and suspended matter

Concentration in milligrams per cubic meter
Daily values for the month

<i>Month</i>	<i>Lowest</i>	<i>Highest</i>	<i>Average</i>
January	.039	.385	.141
February	.066	.468	.187
March	.017	.258	.100
April	.027	.152	.068
May	.045	.229	.095
June	.031	.175	.069
July	.029	.108	.064
August	.053	.164	.097
September	.010	.227	.053
October	.054	.410	.142
November	.029	.387	.185
December	.070	.398	.179

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The ambulance hut at Wharfemeadows continued to be maintained by the Council.

During the holiday season and at week-ends during summer, members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade attend the hut to render first aid to casualties on Wharfemeadows Park. The service is well used and much valuable work has been done by the ambulance workers.

Six first aid boxes are maintained by the Council at the following points in the district :

Bradford Road	Opposite Duncan Avenue.
Manor Square	On wall of Royal White Horse Hotel.
Bridge End	On end wall of Bridge Avenue.
Maypole Square	Wall of cottage, top of Garnett Street.
Pool Road	On park wall opposite Cemetery.
Leeds Road	End of Pearson's Buildings.

These are inspected regularly and replenishments made as necessary.

MORTUARY ACCOMMODATION

The Mortuary at Pool Road was not used during 1955.

The Mortuary is cleansed regularly as a routine procedure, and is attended daily when in use and thoroughly cleansed after use.

The Otley General Hospital Mortuary is used for all post mortem cases occurring in the district for which the Local Authority would normally be responsible.

The Council provide labour for laying out the bodies and a fee of £1 10s. 0d. is paid to the Hospital authorities for each case received.

During 1955, 31 cases have been dealt with at the Hospital Mortuary.

Pool Road Mortuary is retained in service for the reception of non post mortem cases, or emergency accommodation under special circumstances.

